

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the current application. While claims 1-18 and 24-27 have been withdrawn as related to non-elected inventions, claims 19-23 are under examination and have been rejected. Applicants have amended claims 1, 11-19, 24 and 26, and cancelled claims 2, 6-10 and 21-22. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the amendments and the following arguments.

Claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of the now cancelled claim 22. Similarly, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the same limitation. Claims 11-18 have been amended for consistency with claim 1, while claims 24 and 26 have been amended to insert the chemical structure of formula III, since while it was referred to in these claims, the structure was not included (For support see the PCT specification, the paragraph bridging page 9-10, and also see method claim 12).

Claim Objections

Claim 23 is objected to because the claim is missing a period. Claim 23 has been revised in order to overcome this objection by adding a period.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 19-23 are rejected on the basis that the phrase “less than about 2 mm” is indefinite. Applicants respectfully disagree. Nonetheless, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the claim, removing the term objected to by the Examiner. Thus, the claims rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, should now be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 19-20 and 23 are rejected on the basis that they are anticipated by US 5262031 ('031). Claims 19-20 are rejected on the basis that they are anticipated by US 2004/0044100 ('100). Applicants respectfully disagree. Nonetheless, in an effort to expedite prosecution,

Applicants have amended claim 19, incorporating the limitation of claim 22, thus rendering the rejection moot. Therefore the 35 USC 102 rejections should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 19-21 are rejected on the basis that they are unpatentable over US 2004/0044100 ('100). Applicants respectfully disagree. Nonetheless, in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 19, incorporating the limitation of claim 22, thus rendering the rejection moot. Therefore the 35 USC 103 rejections should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 19-20 and 23 are free from prior art and are in condition for allowance. Claims 1, 3-5, 11-18 and 24-27 each depend on or otherwise include the limitations of claim 19. Thus Applicants respectfully request rejoining of these claims.

In view of the above remarks, entry of the foregoing and prompt and favorable consideration of the subject application on the merits are respectfully requested.

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